

A Five-Tiered Emergency Response Approach

1. The 12-hour Push Package

There are 12 Push Packages strategically stored across the U.S. Each 12-hour Push Package contains an assortment of medical products to help in a variety of possible biological, chemical or nuclear terrorism events.

- Weighs over 50 tons
- Fills a wide-body aircraft
- Occupies 130 cargo containers
- Requires 12,000 square feet ground/floor space for proper receiving, staging and storing
- Pre-configured for rapid identification and ease of distribution
- Pre-positioned in environmentally controlled and secured facilities
- Ready for deployment to reach designated area within 12 hours of Federal activation

2. Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI) Packages

- “Tailored” to provide specific materiel depending upon suspected or confirmed agent
- Comprised of pharmaceuticals and supplies that are delivered from one or more VMI sources
- Everything that is in the 12-hour Push Packages is in VMI...Only More of it.

3. Storage & Rapid Deployment of Vaccines, Antivirals and Antitoxins

The SNS Program provides security, storage and rapid movement of select vaccines, antivirals and antitoxins for release to states in response to a biological, chemical or nerve threat agent.

4. Buying Power/Surge Capacity

The SNS Program’s Acquisition Partner, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is able to negotiate the rapid purchase (at lower prices than the Federal Supply Schedule) of medical materiel, because it has already purchased billions of dollars of pharmaceuticals for the VA medical system.

- Based upon market analysis by the VA the SNS Program selects certain high demand material items to hold in inventory.
- The SNS Program has access to manufacturer’s “on-hand” surge capability for non-critical items
- The SNS Program uses various methods (like accessing the Universal Data Repository – UDR) to take a “snap-shot” look at the availability of medical materiel stock across the nation– specifically for non-critical items which would be needed in mass quantity.

5. Technical Assistance

During an event, the SNS Program Technical Advisory Response Unit (TARU) provides onsite support to state/local authorized personnel on receiving, distributing, dispensing, replenishing and the recovery of SNS assets. The TARU:

- Includes public health experts, logisticians and emergency response specialists.
- Manages the transfer of SNS assets to authorized state representatives (in accordance with state plan) and provides technical assistance.
- Coordinates with the local incident command structure.
- Maintains continuous contact with DHS’ SNS Program Coordination Center.